

December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve- Candlelight Communion 10 PM

Prelude

Celebration Ringers *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Procession of The Bells

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Light the Christmas candles, now:
Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
birthday candles for the King,
let the alleluias ring.**

Family Reading and Lighting of Christ Candle

**Candle, candle, burning bright,
shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle, burning bright,
fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

Welcome

†Hymn *Joy to the World*

†Christmas Affirmation

**We believe in God, the creator and giver of life,
who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born anew, encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.**

**And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God,
a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Amen.**

Christmas Prayer

Celebration Ringers *Song of the Angels*

Prayer of Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear and
rejoice in the good news of our Savior's birth. Amen.**

Scriptures Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Message

Ensemble *Before the Paling of the Stars*

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(sung) **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Glo---ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glo--ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!**

**See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.
Glo---ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o! Glo--ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!**

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Sharing of Christmas Communion

Solo *O Holy Night*

Passing of the Light

†Hymn *Silent Night*

Benediction

Completion of *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!